set up in the state of Tamil Nadu. From these centers, 6540 students have passed out till December, 2007 and have been appropriately obsorbed by the industry. Government is also implementing various developmental schemes in the State for upgrading skills and also providing infrastructural input and marketing support for the purpose. During the year 2007-08, an amount of 33.76 crores has been released by the Government of India under various schemes like Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme.

Effect of strengthening of rupee against dollar on the textile sector

†763. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile sector is facing problems due to the strengthening of rupee more than 13 per cent against the dollar in the last year;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Textile Industry Federation has made certain suggestions to avoid the loss being suffered by the textile sector;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to promote the textile industry based on these suggestions; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that this sector being the second largest employment provider after agriculture does not face such problems in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) The Government is seized of the submissions of textiles export promotion councils and other associations, which attribute the decline in India's textiles exports to the recent appreciation of the Indian rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar. The Indian textiles industry has been demanding various concessions, which include refund of State and local levies, higher rates of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) and Duty Drawback, etc., to cope with the adverse situation. The Government has, in response, introduced certain measures to provide relief to the affected exporters. These include increase in Duty Entitlement Pass Book and Duty Drawback rates, exemption from service tax on select services, reduction in interest rates of pre-shipment and post-shipment credit, and faster clearance of arrears of terminal excise duties and Central Sales Tax.

Steps to increase powerlooms in the country

764. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of powerlooms as on 31st December, 2007 in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps during each of the last two years for the increase of powerlooms in the country and the result achieved thereon;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for increase of powerlooms in the country during the Eleventh Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the steps proposed to be taken to achieve the targets?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) State/Union-Territory-wise number of powerlooms as on 31.12.2007 is enclosed as the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Government has launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to modernise textile sector including powerloom sector in order to improve its competitiveness in the global market which resulted in the increase of powerlooms including modern looms in the country as follows:

Year	Total Looms installed
2005-06	1943892
2006-07	1990308

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The contribution of the powerloom sector has been targeted at 58 billion square meters of fabrics by 2011-12, with an estimated production of 33 billion square meters in 2006-07. It has been estimated that 1,87,351 Auto/Shuttle-less looms will be required to produce additi :ai 25 billion square meters of fabrics. To achieve the target, TUFS and other schemes like Group Workshed Scheme and Integrated Powerloom Cluster Development Scheme have been continued during the 11th Five Year Plan for powerloom sector.

Statement

The State/Union territory-wise position of installation of powerlooms as on 31.12.2007

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Union Territory	No. of Powerloom Units	No. of Looms
1	2	3	4
STATES			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9951	44946
2.	Assam	261	2726
3.	Bihar	1443	2894
4.	Goa	18	122
5.	Gujarat	32229	323153
6.	Haryana	2659	9933
7.	Himachal Pradesh	182	1461
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	56	65
9.	Karnataka	24586	81890
10.	Kerala	671	2792
11.	Madhya Pradesh	39762	104301

1	2	3	4
12.	Maharashtra	241371	992704
13.	Orissa	792	3321
14.	Punjab	3661	23620
15.	Rajasthan	4032	33464
16.	Tamil Nadu	75467	381115
17.	Uttar Pradesh	25135	65993
18.	West Bengal	952	5459
19.	Delhi	124	1102
20.	Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura	0	0
UNION TERRITORY			
21.	Chandigarh	11	42
22.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38	962
23.	Pondicherry	117	830
24.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep	0	0
	TOTAL	463518	2082895

Preservation and promotion of traditional industries of Assam

765. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to preserve and promote the traditional industries of handicrafts at Sartherbari in the district of Barpeta and textile industries (Handloom) at Sualkuchi in the district of Kamrup (Rural) Assam;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For preservation and promotion of traditional industries of handicrafts in the country, including in the State of Assam, the various schemes include Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana for Integrated development of identified craft clusters; Marketing Support Scheme; Design & Technology upgradation Scheme; Human Resource Development; Research & Development & Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.

So far as the Sartherbari in the district of Barpeta is concerned, a financial assistance of Rs. 1.06 Crs. has been sanctioned in the last five years and released to the various organizations